

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15
STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00
OMB-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /133 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5463

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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EB/OT/GCP FOR STUART LYNN

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD

SUBJECT: GATT COUNCIL, MARCH 2

REF: (A) GENEVA 1319 (B) GENEVA 898

FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND FOR MARCH 2 GATT COUNCIL:

1. ARTICLE XXII CONSULTATIONS ON U.S. MEAT RESTRICTIONS.
THIS ITEM WAS MENTIONED IN REF (B) BUT DID NOT APPEAR ON
FORMAL AGENDA TRANSMITTED REF (A). THIS IS BECAUSE SUCH
COMMENTS ARE NORMALLY OFFERED UNDER OTHER BUSINESS. WE BE-
LIEVE MATTER MAY STILL BE RAISED.

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2. ITALIAN MONETARY MEASURES. IN REF (B), WE SUGGESTED
THAT IN THE EVENT ITALINA TAX ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE PAY-
MENTS DID NOT EXPIRE AS SCHEDULED ON 18 FEBRUARY , U.S.
SHOULD NOTE SAME AND ASK THAT WP CONTINUE IN EXISTENCE
AND BE PREPARED TO MEET IF NECESSARY. WE ARE NOW INFORMED BY
SECRETARIAT THAT MEASURE DID EXPIRE ON 18 FEBRUARY AND THAT AN-

NOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE TO COUNCIL. THEREFORE, SUGGEST U.S. WELCOME THIS NEWS.

3. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CONSULTATIONS.

A. CORRECT BOP SERIES DOCUMENT NUMBERS ARE THOSE CONTAINED REFTEL (A). THESE SUPERSEDE NUMBERS TRANSMITTED IN REFTEL (B).

B. PORTUGUESE REPORT IS BOP/R/93. ROUTINE NOTING EXPECTED.

C. YUGOSLAVIA. IN VIEW OF BOP COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS CONTAINED IN BOP/R/91 AND IN VIEW OF RECENT INTENSIFICATION OF YUGOSLAV RESTRICTIONS (BELGRADE 108), SUGGEST WE REGRET THE INTENSIFICATION OF RESTRICTIONS, NOTE THAT GATT NOTIFICATION OF THE INTENSIFICATION WAS NOT RECEIVED IN CAPITALS PRIOR TO COUNCIL (NOTE: WE UNDERSTAND DOCUMENT IS DUE TO BE ISSUED MARCH 1), AND INVITE YUGOSLAVIA TO BEGIN PHASING OUT THE RESTRICTIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY BOP COMMITTEE.

4. EROSION OF SALARIES. C/M/117 OF 19 NOVEMBER 1976, PAGE 20, AND C/92 OF 14 MARCH 1975. PERTINENT TELEGRAMS ARE 76 GENEVA 9127, 76 GENEVA 9123, AND 76 GENEVA 8149. WE ARE UNABLE TO EXTRACT FROM SECRETARIAT PRECISELY WHAT D-G LONG HAS IN MIND ON THIS AGENDA ITEM. HOWEVER, IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT LONG WAS WITHHOLDING ALL PROPOSED ACTION UNTIL CERTAIN UN ACTION WAS TAKEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES. THUS, LONG MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO REPEAT HIS PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN C/92 THAT THE 1974 "SURPLUS" OF 515,409 SWISS FRANCS BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF TO COMPENSATE FOR "LOSSES" ALLEGEDLY CAUSED BY EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS AND NOT ENTIRELY MADE UP BY VARIOUS PARTIAL ADJUSTMENTS IN THE UN ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM. U.S., FRG, AND OTHERS HAVE LONG MAINTAINED THAT THERE WAS NO 1974 "SURPLUS" AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION (SINCE CP'S HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO USE THE 1974 SURPLUS TO REDUCE FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS) AND THAT IN ANY EVENT, SUCH PAYMENTS WOULD BE A DEPARTURE FROM UN COMMON SYSTEM PRACTICE IN GENEVA. GATT COUNCIL IN 1975, NONETHELESS, ACCEPTED LONG'S CONCEPT THAT THE 515,409 SWISS FRANCS WAS A "SURPLUS SURPLUS" IN THAT THIS WAS THE AMOUNT BY WHICH THE ACTUAL 1951 SURPLUS EXCEEDED THE ANTICIPATED 1974 SURPLUS AT THE TIME THAT CP'S MADE THEIR DECISION ON DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS. THIS AMOUNT

HAS BEEN CARRIED IN A SUSPENSE ACCOUNT EVER SINCE.
ASSUME OUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE AS ALWAYS: STATE THAT CP'S
HAVE ALREADY DECIDED UPON DISPOSITION OF THESE FUNDS
AND THAT U.S. OPPOSES DISBURSEMENTS WHICH DEVIATE FROM
UN COMMON SYSTEM PRACTICE IN GENEVA. WE MIGHT ALSO NOTE
THAT MOST RECENT GATT BUDGET COMMITTEE (L/4413, PARAS 15
AND 39) WAS OF THE SAME VIEW.

5. FINLAND-GDR WP: INTERIM REPORT. SEE
GENEVA 1057. WE MAY WISH TO NOTE OUR REGRET THAT AB-
SENCE OF GDR FROM WP HAS MADE PROGRESS DIFFICULT.
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